WITK

The Spark Gap

OCT BER 1984

Book IX Vol X

Official Journal of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society

It Seems to Me...

by Tom Kinahan, N1CPE

As you may know, in our meeting of September 6, 1984 we voted on the purchase of a new repeater. It will be a Kendecom Inc. Mark 3CR which will run 75 watts, have full control functions and the ability for future expansion such as auto-patch should we desire it. This is a ready-to-go unit that should require nothing more than plugging into AC and an antenna.

The $2236 (including shipping, etc.) for the repeater will come from the Club treasury, donations from members and finally loans from two members to make up the difference. The loans will be payed back by future donations by the membership.

Again notice we are looking for donations from you, the members. This time we have arranged for you to get something in return, though. For each $100 donation to the repeater fund, a repeater function will be named for you. Just think, the new repeater could feature "the K1XXX squelch tale" (or whatever). Those making major donations will be suitable acknowledged through the newsletter, etc. We can only purchase the repeater and pay back this loan with your help and I hope everybody will do their part for our repeater.

During that meeting, we noted at least nine people that said they would help our repeater fund with $100 donations and we need more. At this time I know of 5 donations of this size and hope to see lots more.

We already have the duplexers for the repeater, and they are awaiting a repeater to talk to them.

As usual, any questions or comments will be answered by me at any time. Call me on our repeater, 147.03 or on the phone (653-0641).

Dues Dues Dues...

With the start of the new club year it is time to pay your dues. They remain at $8.00 this year. You can also sign up additional family members for only $2.00 each.

You may pay your dues during one of the meetings this month or mail them to the club treasurer, C.J. McDonald, WB1BUM, 48 Hale Street, Newton, Mass. 02164. Please use the membership form from last month's Spark Gap and please <u>fill it out</u> so that the officers can know more about what you are interested in. Last year many people left it blank, and this really isn't helpful.

ANNOUNCEMENT

For this months program we are trying to get a film or videotape from the ARRL library. The exact title is unknown at presstime.

MEETINGS THIS MONTH:

October 4, 1984, at 7:30 p.m.
October 18, 1984, at 7:30 p.m.
211 Washington St., Wellesley

"New Tickets"

Congratulations to Dave McClellen, who upgraded to General over the summer. Dave has also changed his callsign from KA1HCM to N1DFP. Congratulation also go to Ken McNair, ex-KA1ACX on his new callsign N1DEZ.

NEW CLUB MEMBERS

This month we would like to welcome George Goldin, KA1LQN, as a new member. George was a member of our spring Novice class. Also, we would like to welcome Ingrid Vedie, wife of Georges Vedie, KA1LQO.

Hearabouts....

We have recently learned that Kevin Kelly, WA1YHV, has been hospitalized with a stroke and is now at the Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital. If you would like to send Kevin a card, his complete address is Kevin Kelly, Room 204, Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital, 125 Nashua Street, Boston, Mass. 02114. I know you all join me in wishing him a full and speedy recovery.

Auctions / Flea Markets

October 6: Hosstrader's Swapfest, Deerfield, N.H. New England's largest flea market. Take Route 3 north to Route 101A east to Route 33 and follow the signs. Admission is $2 whether buying or selling.

October 20: Middlesex ARC flea market, at the Dover Town Hall, Dover, Mass. Doors open at 9:00 a.m. Admission $1.00.

October 28: Framingham ARA flea market, on Route 126 in downtown Framingham. Doors open at 10:00 a.m. Admission is $2 for buyers, food available.

Public Service

Wellesley's annual Veteran's Parade is coming up this month, on Sunday, October 14. Once again they have asked for our help providing communications to help organize the marching units and to provide information for the announcer's stand near the end of the route. If you would like to help out with this event, please contact Nels Anderson, K1UR on the repeater or at 872-5259.

WARS NET

Just a reminder that weekly running of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society net continues every Sunday night at 7:00 p.m. on 147.63/03. We did unintentionally miss a few weeks around Labor Day due to the holiday and the trip to Mt. Equinox but we are now back on a regular schedule. For the latest club news and a chance to keep in touch with other club members, don't forget to check in each Sunday.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:
Nels Anderson, K1UR, 872-5259
VICE PRESIDENT:
David Curry, K1TK, 237-2450
RECORDING SECRETARY:
Tom Kinahan, N1CPE, 653-0641
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:
Allan Bacon, K1BA, 749-4382
TREASURER:
C.J. McDonald, WB1BUM, 332-6091
FUND RAISING:
Kevin Kelly, WA1YHV, 242-0341
OPERATING ACTIVITIES:
Volunteer needed!
EDUCATION CHAIRMAN:
Volunteer needed!
STATION MANAGER:
Bob Drapeau, KT1K, 883-1132
REPEATER COMMITTEE:
Tom Kinahan, N1CPE, 653-0641

The Spark Gap

Official Journal of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society

EDITOR:

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THE "SPARK GAP" IS A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY. ITS PRIMARY PURPOSE IS TO KEEP ITS MEMBERS ABREAST OF CURRENT HAPPENINGS, FCC RULES AND REGULATIONS CHANGES, AND TO LIST EQUIPMENT OFFERED FOR SALE OR TRADE BY MEMBERS. MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE "SPARK GAP" AND MAY SEND THEIR ARTICLES TO THE EDITOR. ITEMS PRINTED IN THE "SPARK GAP" MAY BE REPRINTED BY OTHER AMATEUR RADIO PUBLICATIONS PROVIDED THE AUTHOR AND THE "SPARK GAP" ARE GIVEN CREDIT.

THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF AMATEUR RADIO THROUGH INSTRUCTION, FELLOWSHIP, DEMONSTRATION, AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF PARTICIPATION. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP IN THE SOCIETY IS $8.00. THE CLUB YEAR RUNS SEPTEMBER 1 TO AUGUST 31. AMATEUR NOVICE AND GENERAL CLASSES ARE CONDUCTED REGULARLY AT NO COST. TO ENROLL IN A CLASS, OR GAIN INFORMATION ABOUT THE SOCIETY IN GENERAL, WRITE:

THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
211 WASHINGTON STREET
WELLESLEY HILLS, MASS. 02181

MINUTES

Meeting of September 6, 1984:

Meeting opened at 7:57 p.m. by Nels Anderson, K1UR, followed by introductions.

Treasurers report was read. K1TK made a motion to pass the budget as proposed for next year, seconded and passed with no objections.

The next item was the repeater. A presentation was made by N1CPE on a proposal to purchase a repeater. Discussion followed.

A motion was made by K1TK to commit $1000 from the club treasury and to sign a letter of intent to pay balance of cost of the new repeater to two club members that will loan the difference towards a Mark 4CR minus any donations that come in. Seconded. -- Withdrawn after some debate.

Another motion was made to modify the above proposal to change the last proposal as follows: A motion was made by K1TK to commit $1000 from the club treasury and to sign a letter of intent to pay balance of cost of the new repeater to two club members that will loan the difference towards a Mark 3CR minus any donations that come in. Seconded. Passed, 12 for, 1 against, 2 abstentions.

KT1K mentioned that the club dipole had fallen down. The possibilities of installing a permanent antenna were discussed as were possible reactions by the Red Cross. Decided to return to the same type dipole that has been in use.

Report from KA1IU on Incorporation Commitee. Another report next meeting.

Meeting closed at 9:46 p.m. by K1UR.

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Meeting of September 20, 1984:

The meeting was opened at 7:48 p.m. by President Nels Anderson, K1UR, with 14 present.

The Treasurer's report was given.

A request was made for people to help with the Wellesley Veteran's Parade.

A report of the VHF QSO Party was given.

A report on the repeater fund was made, a it was announced that maps of New England repeaters would be available for sale through the club.

Some general news items were discussed.

The meeting was closed at about 8:15 and slides from the 1983/84 club year were shown.

Hamnews

Congratulations are in order for Darrell Pace, N8FTS, winner of an Olympic Gold Medal in Archery. Also, Sheila Conover, KB6CZX, finished sixth in the Women's 500-meter Kayak Singles.

ARRL Letter, August 30, 1984

OFFICIAL BULLETIN

Number 65, dated August 28, 1984:

RM 4831, the STI petition to take 216 to 222 MHz for private land mobile, has been put on hold by the FCC. Two companies with interests in the inland waterway communications system, ACBL and Watercom, obtained an extension of the deadline for filing comments until 14 days after an FCC Administrative Law Judge rules on their petition claiming a conflict of interest. The petition seeks to disqualify STI's law firm because it had previously represented ACBL and Watercom. In the meantime, Amateurs can and should continue to file comments in this proceeding. When a new deadline is known, W1AW will carry this information. Comment and reply deadlines in RM4829, the LMCC petition, are not affected by this action. Please be aware that copies of comments on such petitions must be served on the petitioner. It is adequate to send a copy by first class mail, and to attach a certificate of service to the comments. It should say something like, I certify that I have on this date sent a copy of these comments by first class mail to... The address for the petitioner of RM 4831 is Sideband Technology, Inc., 2000 M Street NW, Suite 600, Washington, D.C.

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Number 71, dated September 14, 1984:

FCC has proposed to reallocate half of the 160 meter band, from 1900 to 2000 kHz, to non-government radiolocation because of an anticipated expansion of the AM broadcast band that would force certain radiolocation stations to move. Although the timing of the September 11 release of Docket 84 874 came as a surprise to the Amateur Radio community, ARRL reacted swiftly. ARRL today filed a motion to hold this NPRM in abeyance pending the resolution of an ARRL petition filed September 10 to study the MF band needs of non-government radiolocation stations.

Number 72, dated September 14, 1984:

ARRL has requested that the FCC issue a declaratory ruling of limited Federal preemption of state and local regulation of Amateur Radio station installation and operation, or, in short, antenna zoning rules. The FCC seeks factual, unemotional comments on the League's filing. An original and four copies of any comments must be received by the Secretary, FCC, 1919 M Street NW, Washington, DC 20554 on or before November 9. Please send a copy to ARRL. Comments should refer to document number PRB 1. A copy of the League's request is available from ARRL HQ (225 Main Street, Newington, Conn. 06111) for a 9x12 inch S.A.S.E. with 88 cents postage.

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Number 73, dated September 14, 1984:

Bills have been introduced into Congress which would add malicious interference to radio communications as an offense named in the Communications Act of 1934, permitting enforcement directly by the Justice Department. Up to now, interference cases have generally been handled administratively as violations of FCC regulations. Representative Jim Bates (D/Calif.), is sponsor of HR 6195 and Senator Barry Goldwater (R/Ariz.), K7UGA, is sponsor of S 2975, each of which would amend the act making malicious interference a statuatory offense.

Hamnews

American Airlines honored Amateur Radio in an article appearing in the August issue of American Way magazine, a complimentary publication given to passengers. The August edition featured a four page report by Bruce W. Most on nearly every aspect of today's worldwide Amateur Service and its involvement in developing tomorrow's technologies. The author is the son of Norton S. Most, W0NTN, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Tnx WB2JSJ.

Westlink Report, September 7, 1984

CHUCKLE KORNER

RESTORATION OF THE 20 METER BAND

from GEARFAKf, via ARNS

As announced in a previous issue, the FCC has installed a sprinkler system in the 20 meter band to prevent any future conflagrations similar to the one which broke out on the band two years ago. At the same time the sprinkler system was installed, plans were made to erect supports at regular intervals to prevent sagging in certain areas due to the perching of migratory birds. At certain times of the year, entire flocks of these birds migrate thousands of miles, and in recent years have been stopping to rest on various sections of the 20 meter band. (Our resident ornithologist explains that the birds use the 20 meter band because the width of the band most nearly fits their feet. They also can find the band at convenient altitudes along their migratory route.) These supports should not cause any problem to aircraft. FCC Special Frequency Engineer, Ralph Spiffee, explained that the supports would be constructed by a new method. "It is a rotating system in which sunbeams are used as supports during the day and moonbeams are used at night. During periods of overcast skies of the new moon, we will dispatch special crews to tie the sagging areas of 20 meters to the more sturdy portion on the 15 meter band," he said.

VHF CONTEST

by Nels Anderson, K1UR

We were once again fortunate to have good weather as we headed to Vermont for the second and last time this summer. The weekend of September 8 and 9 provided beautiful sunshine all weekend, with the only minor problem being the cold at night. Our June weekend on Mt. Equinox may have brought the best weather ever, but this weekend brought the best band conditions ever, at least on the bands above 6 meters. There was a definite shortage of activity on 6, apparently because most people were concentrating on the higher bands to take advantage of the great conditions there.

How good were conditions? Well, we normally can expect to make a couple of contacts down into Virginia and a few into 8-land and that's about the limit of our range. This time, though, instead of our normal half-dozen or so 4-land stations, we worked 85 on 2 meters, 9 on 220, 17 on 432 and even 3 on 1296 (one as far as the N.C./Tennessee border). On 2, 220 and 432 we worked all the way down to Florida quite a few times. Unlike previous contests where the bands would be open for a few hours during the weekend, this time the good conditions continued all weekend.

As a result of these conditions we set personal records both overall and on all individual bands from 2 meters through 1296 MHz. It also looks like we have a good chance of being around 3rd or 4th place nationwide among multi-operator stations.

Our score was as follows:

BAND:	QSOS:	GRIDS:
50	284	51
144	589	80
220	88	33
432	136	46
1296	38	17
10000	2	2

SCORE: 1137 QSO'S
229 GRIDS
329,989 POINTS

Participants in this fall's QSO Party were: David Curry, K1TK; Dick Paret, WA1ZLQ; C.J. McDonald, WB1BUM; Arnie Adelman, W1GCI; Tom Kinahan, N1CPE; Dave Kent, N2AWG; Scott Nacey, WA1YOJ; Hank Ostrowski, VE3CGL; Nels Anderson, K1UR; Vern Robertson, W1EGE. Art Holmes, WA2TIF.

FROM THE MAILBAG

I am a candidate for the upcoming election for the New England Division's position on the ARRL Board of Directors.

The ballots for the ARRL New England Division election will be mailed around October 1st and include a statement from each candidate. This is the first time since 1978 that there will be a choice of candidates, so it is important that you examine the issues and candidates carefully.

Since it has been several years since there has been a choice for Director, it is useful to look at the direction the ARRL has taken during that time:

1) The Board of Directors used to help with legal fees in some Amateur Radio cases in the courts, where local government regulations were unfairly restricting Amateur Radio. In 1983 the Board unanimously voted to stop funding all Amateur Radio cases in the courts. In fact, the Board presently has no clear plan of action for the future.

2) The number of pages in QST has declined for each of the past six years despite more than doubling yearly ARRL dues from $12.00 to $25.00.

3) The ARRL Letter, a four page newsletter, costs $19.50 a year for regular ARRL members, but of the 1900 subscribers, more than half get it for free, at your expense.

4) In 1978 about 40% of all United States Amateurs were ARRL members. Today it is 28% and still dropping.

It's not that everything is wrong in Newington, but that there is not enough leadership by the present Board of Directors in addressing today's problems. From 1977 to 1981 I worked as Assistant Communications Manager at ARRL Headquarters. That experience and my 20 years of active participation in Amateur Radio has uniquel qualified me for the Director's position.

Take the time to send a message to Newington this year, tell them you want a change, some new ideas and some new leadership. Let's make the ARRL live up to its potential.

73,
Tom Frenaye, K1KI

(Editor's note: The printing of this letter does not indicate support for either candidate either by myself personally or as club policy. It is presently for your information only.)

Hamnews

Look for the FCC Commissioners to decide the fate of allocations from their "800 MHz reserve pool" at the November 15 meeting. There are at least 9 outstanding applications on file for spectrum assignments. Also expected at that meeting is a final decision on the highly touted Personal Radio Communications Service which Canada is likely to proceed with eve if it gets nixed in the United States. Of all the proposals before the Commission, the one most likely to be approved is the one from the Land Mobile Satellite Services; Canada has already approved its own version of this service. Tnx KC5CW.

Westlink Report, September 7, 1984

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On July 31, the FCC released an order dismissing a petition filed by Dennis M. Dutton, KI4FV, requesting that FCC revisit the no-code license issue. Dutton claimed that the international regulations gave the FCC "not only the right to make these amendments, but also the responsibility." The Commission, however, did not see it this way. Private Radio Bureau Chief Robert S. Foosaner noted in the order that Dutton had presented no new facts or issues to warrent further consideration.

ARRL Letter, September 13, 1984